



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Wappapello Lake cresting today

St. Louis, Mo., May 3, 2011 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis reported that Wappapello Lake's pool elevation is cresting today at just over 400.0 feet. That elevation sets a new record, nearly a foot above the previous record of 399.09, set in April 1945. The current water releases of 30,400 cubic feet per second are more than three times the maximum that's released through the gate structure on the dam. Wappapello Lake is on the St. Francis River about 150 miles south of St. Louis.

St. Louis District Commander, Col. Thomas O'Hara has been at Wappapello Lake since the afternoon of Saturday, April 30.

"Our system is working well, as it was designed to do," O'Hara stated. "We are dealing with historic or near historic events, not just here at Wappapello, but across this part of the country. This is just one example of the value of these reservoirs and other elements of our flood risk reduction systems have on the region and how they are working."

Yesterday, at about 2 a.m., the lake's waters began overtopping a temporary rock berm that was constructed across the lake's overflow spillway. The berm was constructed to an elevation of 397.3 feet but recent rain events pushed the lakes waters beyond that level. By 11 a.m., the spillway was fully functioning as designed. Water over the spillway posed no risk to the dam structure, but Highway T across the dam was destroyed, along with the fiber optics and water lines going across the dam.

The Corps of Engineers, community partners and local law enforcement carried out an early warning plan to provide accurate and updated information to people living downstream of Wappapello Lake. The Corps has also held daily conferences with agencies, county officials, community leaders, and stakeholders to provide the latest information about flood conditions, and has provided regular updates through local media, telephone and internet resources.

Spring 2011 has produced large amounts of rainfall through southeastern Missouri and the St. Francis River basin is no exception. On Sunday, April 24 and Monday, April 25, Wappapello Lake experienced near-record inflows approaching 88,000 cubic feet per second. Inflows of 80,000-90,000 cfs were experienced again yesterday morning. As a flood damage reduction project, Wappapello has performed as it was designed. Without it, the historic amount of rainfall in the basin would have moved downstream unchecked while other, high water events were already occurring.

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More information on St. Louis District's Spring 2011 flood fight efforts is available on the Team Saint Louis websites:

St. Louis District: www.mvs.usace.army.mil
St. Louis District floodfight home: <http://bit.ly/floodfight>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/teamsaintlouis
Twitter: www.twitter.com/teamsaintlouis
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usacestlouis>
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/TeamSaintLouis>

2011 Wappapello Lake Flooding Timeline

DATE	EVENT	Lake Elevation
Fri, 22 April 2011	Grand Re-Opening , Peoples Creek Campground	357.9
Sun, 24 April 2011	Evacuate Greenville and Peoples Campgrounds	368.9
April 24-25, 2011	Near record inflows of 88,000 cfs	~361.5-378.0
Mon, 25 April 2011	Increase discharge to 10,000 cfs	380.0
Tues, 26 April 2011	Began 2 pm daily calls with Emergency mgmt groups	384.6
Wed, 27 April 2011	Closed T Highway, temporary berm construction begins	391.3
Thur, 28 April 2011	Complete berm, began pumping operations	394.8
Fri, 29 April 2011	Wappapello Lake Crest	396.7
Sat, 30 April 2011	Implement downstream early warning plan	396.6
Mon, 2 May 2011	2:00 a.m., temporary berm overtopped	397.5
Mon, 2 May 2011	11:00 a.m., spillway fully functioning as designed	~398.8
Mon, 3 May 2011	Wappapello Lake Crest	400.0

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